

West Babylon, NY, who spent his career in service to his country and this House, and in doing so has made a real difference in his community.

For the past decade, Randy has served the people of Long Island, first as executive assistant to our former colleague, Norman Lent, 4th district, New York, and most recently district director to PETER KING, 3d district, New York. In these capacities, Randy has helped literally thousands of constituents, from the senior citizen experiencing problems receiving a social security check to the anxious child needing an emergency visa to visit an ailing parent in another country. Randy has taken the time to listen to their concerns and then acted quickly to resolve those problems, which may sound trivial to some, but in reality are quite important to the person needing assistance. In recognition of his dedication and support, Randy has been awarded membership in the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, making him the first congressional staff member in history to be accorded that honor.

Mr. Speaker, too often we forget the fine work that is done on our behalf by our dedicated and professional staff. Their efforts often help make our Government more responsive to the people we serve. So, it is only fitting that I take this time to honor Randy Yunker, who has a distinguished career of service to the people of Long Island.

CLINTON'S READING PLAN

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article which appeared in the Marietta Daily Journal September 15, 1996. As we look for ways to improve our country's schools, we would do well to listen to the advice of the teachers and parents who are working with the students every day. While the administration would like to simply spend more money on the wasteful education bureaucracy and curry favor with teachers unions, there is no substitute for individual help from teachers like Kay Vaughn who are working with children on a daily basis to teach them to read and write. [From the Marietta Daily Journal, Sept. 15, 1996]

LOCAL TEACHER SAYS CLINTON'S READING PLAN MISSES THE MARK

(By Jamie Floer)

President Bill Clinton's proposal to send Americorps volunteers into the nation's schools to help teach children to read by the third grade gets a failing mark from Cobb educators.

The president promised during his nomination acceptance speech in August to emphasize reading performance when he proclaimed that "every student in America should be able to read by the third grade."

But when professional reading teacher Kay Vaughn heard about the idea, she knew better.

Surrounded by a table of first-graders at Dunleith Elementary School in Marietta, every day Ms. Vaughn teaches students the skills they need to become literate, and she contends the president's plan is not needed.

"We're really working on reading in kindergarten, first and second grade. . . . They

definitely know how to read by third grade," she said. "The earlier you get them started the easier it is to break them of bad habits."

Sitting down to read an easy-reader book about a cat, 6-year-old Darius Alexander, the son of Frances and Lisa Alexander of Marietta, just started first grade a few weeks ago. "Reading is my favorite thing to do," Darius said.

Seeing the reading process click for students like Darius and his classmates makes Ms. Vaughn's efforts worthwhile.

Dunleith Principal Dr. Emily Lembeck said, "We have a lot of programs in place to support reading in our school." A former first-grade teacher herself, Dr. Lembeck said grasping the basics of reading is important and should definitely be in place well before third grade.

Dunleith uses innovative approaches such as the Partnership in Literacy Program that began last year where volunteers spend 15 minutes a week listening to students read aloud.

Throughout Marietta, at schools such as West Side and A.L. Burruss, which was recognized last year with an international award for reading, reading has long been a focus.

Kelly Henson, assistant superintendent of the 6,000-student school district, said the city system's approaches have changed but the goal has remained the same—teach children to read by the end of first grade.

For three or four years the system used a one-on-one program called Reading Recovery, which was funded federally.

However, this school year the Early Intervention Reading Program was put into place to expand the program and serve more students. Under the new program school principals can choose to continue with one-on-one instruction or use small groups.

"It takes different shapes at every school depending on the needs. . . . We tried to take some of the restrictions off," Henson said.

Henson estimated that 99 percent of the students in Marietta City Schools know how to read by the third grade, except for a few students who speak a foreign language and students with extreme learning difficulties.

"Most of our students are reading easily in the first grade," Henson added.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. SOLOMAN P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for many of my colleagues in offering my congratulations on the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

Taiwan is a model of 21 million hardworking men and women, who have achieved enormous economic success and political freedom, as well as international admiration and respect.

President Lee Teng-hui and Representatives Jason Hu should be very proud of the achievements of their citizens. I support their continued pragmatic campaign to promote international recognition of the efforts, and successes, of the 21 million men and women living on Taiwan.

I would also like to congratulate Dr. Lyushun Shen on his transfer back to Taiwan for a promotion as the Director of the North American Affairs at the Republic of China Foreign Min-

istry. As an outstanding diplomat, his services in the past 3 years as the congressional liaison director at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC has strengthened our bilateral relations. I wish him the best in his new position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering best wishes to the Republic of China on the 85th anniversary of its creation, and thanking Dr. Lyushun Shen for his contribution to a greater understanding of the issues relating to Taiwan.

CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVAH GROUNDBREAKING

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 20, Congregation Shir Tikvah will break ground for their permanent home, a house of worship in the heart of Troy.

Congregation Shir Tikvah was founded 14 years ago when Pam Spitzer and Phyllis Wenig met in an elementary school parking lot. Recognizing the need for a worship community for Jewish families in the area, 18 families came together and the number quickly grew to 70. Today, Congregation Shir Tikvah has a membership of 240 families. Until now, the congregation has held its services in the Mormon, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and Methodist Churches. The cross-cultural enrichment from these exchanges of hospitality fostered outreach to people of other faiths.

Shir Tikvah's Ark houses a sacred Torah which was seized after World War II in Nazi Germany. It travelled from Germany to England and then to Detroit. Led by Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg, the congregation is open and welcome to all. It is a place to gather for spiritual growth, education, and socialization. Rabbi Arnie and his congregants are an active presence in the faith community of the area.

Shir Takvah translates as "Son of Hope," and the congregation's groundbreaking on October 20 is, indeed, a symbol of their hope for the future. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of Congregation Shir Tikvah on the realization of their dream, and I wish them continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN T. MYERS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of my very good friends in Congress is JOHN MYERS. JOHN has represented Indiana's 7th District which is adjacent to mine.

JOHN is retiring at the end of this Congress, and he is really going to be missed by everyone who appreciates a warm smile and cheery greeting.

Throughout JOHN's career in the House of Representatives he has the reputation of being a staunch fiscal conservative. He consistently voted against higher spending and never voted for a tax increase.